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In re Application of
Robert G. Gally et al.
Application No. 09/702,630
Filed: October 31, 2000
Attorney Docket No. 81674-264196

ON PETITION

This is in response to the "Petition Under 37 CFR 1.47(a)," filed May 25, 2001.

The petition is dismissed.

Rule 47 applicant is given TWO MONTHS from the mailing date of this decision to reply, correcting the below-noted deficiencies. Any reply should be entitled "Request for Reconsideration of Petition Under 37 CFR 1.47(a)," and should only address the deficiencies noted below, except that the reply may include an oath or declaration executed by the non-signing inventor. **FAILURE TO RESPOND WILL RESULT IN ABANDONMENT OF THE APPLICATION.** Any extensions of time will be governed by 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a) requires: (1) proof that the non-signing inventor cannot be reached or refuses to sign the oath or declaration after having been presented with the application papers (specification, claims and drawings); (2) an acceptable oath or declaration in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 115 and 116; (3) the petition fee; and (4) a statement of the last known address of the non-signing inventor. Applicant lacks items (1) set forth above.

As to item (1), the applicable statute (35 USC 116) requires that a "diligent effort" have been expended in attempting to find or reach the nonsigning inventor. See MPEP 40903(a). The showing currently fails to demonstrate, with a documented showing, that a diligent effort was made to find or locate the nonsigning inventor, such that the declaration can be accepted under 37 CFR 1.47(a).

Where inability to find or locate a named inventor(s) is alleged, a statement of facts should be submitted that fully describes the

exact facts which are relied on to establish that a *diligent effort* was made to locate the inventor. The statement(s) of fact must be signed, where at all possible, by a person having firsthand knowledge of the facts recited therein. Statements based on hearsay, will not normally be accepted.

In the instant case, petitioner has indicated that a complete copy of the application papers was sent via airmail to Per Flemming Hansen at his last known address. Since a diligent effort to reach an inventor means more than a single mailing, petitioner should demonstrate the other efforts to locate the inventor, i.e., E-mail or the Internet.¹ Copies of the results of the search must be referred to in any renewed petition. See MPEP 409.03(d). If inventor Mr. Hansen is located, then a copy of the transmittal letter itemizing the complete application papers, as well as a copy of the proof of service on inventor Mr. Hansen, will be required. A cover letter of instructions should accompany the mailing of the application papers setting a deadline or a statement that no response will constitute a refusal. This sort of ultimatum lends support to a finding of refusal by conduct.

Where there is an express or oral refusal, that fact, along with the time and place of the refusal, must be stated in an affidavit or declaration by the party to whom the refusal was made. Where there is a written refusal, a copy of the document(s) evidencing that refusal must be made part of the affidavit or declaration.

When it is concluded by the rule 47 applicant that an omitted inventor's conduct constitutes a refusal, all facts upon which that conclusion is based should be stated in an affidavit or declaration. If there is documentary evidence to support facts alleged in the affidavit or declaration, such evidence must be submitted.

Whenever an omitted inventor gives a reason for refusing to sign the application oath or declaration, that reason should be stated in the affidavit or declaration.

In order to expedite consideration of the petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a), petitioner may wish to consider submitting the renewed petition by facsimile transmission to the telephone number indicated below and to the attention of Wan Laymon.

¹ A search of the Internet located a Per Flemming Hansen at Bjerredevvej 3, Tureby 4682. Denmark.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box DAC
Washington, D.C. 20231

By FAX: (703) 308-6916
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Crystal Plaza Four, Suite 3C23
2201 S. Clark Place
Arlington, VA

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to Wan Laymon at (703) 306-5685.



Frances Hicks
Lead Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy